

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ANATOLIY MIKITYUK <i>et al.</i> ,	:	
	:	
Plaintiffs,	:	
	:	Case No.: 1:21-cv-00510 (LJL)
-v-	:	
CISION US INC. <i>et al.</i> ,	:	
	:	
Defendants.	:	

DEFENDANTS CISION US INC. & CISION LTD.'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS' FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

Defendants Cision US Inc. and Cision Ltd., by and through counsel, hereby respond to the First Amended Complaint in this action.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. Defendant Cision US Inc. admits that it employed Plaintiffs Mitch Tallungan and Michael Esquibel, but denies that it employed Plaintiff Anatoliy Mikityuk. Defendant Cision Ltd. denies that it employed Plaintiffs Anatoliy Mikityuk, Mitch Tallungan, and Michael Esquibel, and further denies that it has ever had any employees at any time. Defendant Cision Ltd. affirmatively states that it is a holding company. The First Amended Complaint speaks for itself as to the recovery sought, and as such, an answer is not required as to the allegation regarding what the lawsuit seeks. Defendants, however, deny the allegations and implications that they violated any of the legal bases asserted in the manner alleged. Defendants further deny that the job titles listed in Paragraph 1 of the First Amended Complaint are similarly situated to each other, and lack sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegation as to "other similar roles, however variously titled," as the term is vague. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 1 of the First Amended Complaint.

2. Defendant Cision US Inc. admits that it is a public relations software and services provider in the United States; Defendant Cision Ltd. denies that it is a public relations software and services provider in the United States. The documents cited in footnote one speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 2 of the First Amended Complaint.

3. Defendant Cision US Inc. admits the allegations in Paragraph 3 of the First Amended Complaint; Defendant Cision Ltd. denies the allegations in Paragraph 3 of the First Amended Complaint..

4. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 4 of the First Amended Complaint.

5. Defendant Cision US Inc. admits the allegations in Paragraph 5 of the First Amended Complaint, except that it denies the allegation as to the portion of the Plaintiffs' defined term for Sales Representatives which includes "other similar roles, however variously titled" as vague; Defendant Cision Ltd. denies the allegations in Paragraph 5 of the First Amended Complaint.

6. Defendants admit that Cision US Inc.'s Sales Representatives perform tasks that include communicating with clients and potential clients via phone and email, researching sales leads, booking sales meetings with prospective clients, and/or making sales of Cision-branded products to current and/or prospective clients, except that they deny the allegation as to the portion of the Plaintiffs' defined term for Sales Representatives which includes "other similar roles, however variously titled" as vague. Plaintiffs' assertion that these duties are "non-exempt" does not require a response as it states a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the same, and except as expressly admitted, deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 6 of the First Amended Complaint.

7. Defendants admit that Cision US Inc.'s Sales Representatives primarily perform their job duties from Cision US Inc.'s office, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, from remote locations, except that they deny the allegation as to the portion of the Plaintiffs' defined term for Sales Representatives which includes "other similar roles, however variously titled" as vague. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 7 of the First Amended Complaint.

8. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 8 of the First Amended Complaint.

9. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 9 of the First Amended Complaint.

10. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 10 of the First Amended Complaint.

11. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 11 of the First Amended Complaint.

12. Paragraph 12 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 12 of the First Amended Complaint.

13. Paragraph 13 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 13 of the First Amended Complaint.

14. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 14 of the First Amended Complaint.

15. The First Amended Complaint speaks for itself as to the claims Plaintiffs assert, and as such, an answer is not required as to the allegation in Paragraph 15 of the First Amended Complaint. Defendants, however, deny the allegations and implications that they violated any of the legal bases asserted in the manner alleged.

16. The First Amended Complaint speaks for itself as to the claims Plaintiff Mikityuk asserts, and as such, an answer is not required as to the allegation in Paragraph 16 of the First

Amended Complaint. Defendants, however, deny the allegations and implications that they violated any of the legal bases asserted in the manner alleged.

17. The First Amended Complaint speaks for itself as to the claims Plaintiff Tallungan asserts, and as such, an answer is not required as to the allegation in Paragraph 17 of the First Amended Complaint. Defendants, however, deny the allegations and implications that they violated any of the legal bases asserted in the manner alleged.

18. The First Amended Complaint speaks for itself as to the claims Plaintiff Esquibel asserts, and as such, an answer is not required as to the allegation in Paragraph 18 of the First Amended Complaint. Defendants, however, deny the allegations and implications that they violated any of the legal bases asserted in the manner alleged.

19. Defendants admit the allegations in Paragraph 19 of the First Amended Complaint.

JURISDICTION & VENUE

20. Defendants admit the allegations in Paragraph 20 of the First Amended Complaint.

21. Defendants admit the allegations in Paragraph 21 of the First Amended Complaint.

22. Defendants admit the allegations in Paragraph 22 of the First Amended Complaint.

23. Defendants admit that venue is proper in this Court. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 23 of the First Amended Complaint.

THE PARTIES

Plaintiff Anatoliy Mikityuk

24. Defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 24 of the First Amended Complaint and therefore deny the same.

25. Defendants admit that Plaintiff held the role of Sales Development Representative from March 2019 to November 2019 for Falcon.io. Defendants deny that they employed Plaintiff

Mikityuk, and except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 25 of the First Amended Complaint.

26. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 26 of the First Amended Complaint.

27. Paragraph 27 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 27 of the First Amended Complaint.

28. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 28 of the First Amended Complaint.

29. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 29 of the First Amended Complaint.

30. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 30 of the First Amended Complaint.

31. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 31 of the First Amended Complaint.

32. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 32 of the First Amended Complaint.

33. The initial Complaint and exhibits thereto speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required to the allegations in Paragraph 33 of the First Amended Complaint.

Plaintiff Mitch Tallungan

34. Defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 34 of the First Amended Complaint and therefore deny the same.

35. Defendant Cision US Inc. admits that it employed Plaintiff Tallungan from January 2016 to March 2018 as a Business Development Manager in its Chicago, Illinois office; Defendant Cision Ltd. denies that it employed Plaintiff Tallungan in any capacity at any time.

36. Defendants admit that Plaintiff Tallungan's job tasks as a Business Development Manager at Cision US Inc. included making sales of Cision US Inc.'s products and services, including sales of subscriptions to Cision US Inc.'s products and services. Except as expressly

admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 36 of the First Amended Complaint.

37. Paragraph 37 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 37 of the First Amended Complaint.

38. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 38 of the First Amended Complaint.

39. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 39 of the First Amended Complaint.

40. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 40 of the First Amended Complaint.

41. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 41 of the First Amended Complaint.

42. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 42 of the First Amended Complaint.

43. The initial Complaint and exhibits thereto speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required to the allegations in Paragraph 43 of the First Amended Complaint.

Plaintiff Michael Esquibel

44. Defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 44 of the First Amended Complaint and therefore deny the same.

45. Defendant Cision Us Inc. admits that it employed Plaintiff Esquibel from August 2018 to May 2019 as a Business Development Specialist in its Beltsville, Maryland office. Defendant Cision Ltd. denies that it employed Plaintiff Esquibel in any capacity at any time.

46. Defendants admit that Plaintiff Esquibel's job tasks as a Business Development Specialist for Cision US Inc. included making sales of Cision US Inc.'s products and services, including sales of subscriptions to Cision US Inc.'s products and services. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 46 of the First Amended Complaint.

47. Paragraph 47 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 47 of the First Amended Complaint.

48. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 48 of the First Amended Complaint.

49. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 49 of the First Amended Complaint.

50. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 50 of the First Amended Complaint.

51. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 51 of the First Amended Complaint.

52. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 52 of the First Amended Complaint.

53. The initial Complaint and exhibits thereto speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required to the allegations in Paragraph 53 of the First Amended Complaint.

Defendants

54. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 54 of the First Amended Complaint.

55. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 55 of the First Amended Complaint.

The documents cited in footnote two speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

56. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 56 of the First Amended Complaint.

The documents cited in footnote three speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

57. Defendants admit that they previously shared the same Board of Directors. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 57 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote four speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

58. Defendants admit that they previously shared the same Executive Officers. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 58 of the First

Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote five speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

59. Paragraph 59 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 59 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote six speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

60. Paragraph 60 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 60 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote seven speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

61. Paragraph 61 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 61 of the First Amended Complaint.

62. Paragraph 62 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 62 of the First Amended Complaint.

63. Paragraph 63 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 63 of the First Amended Complaint.

64. Paragraph 64 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 64 of the First Amended Complaint.

65. Paragraph 65 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 65 of the First Amended Complaint.

66. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 66 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote eight speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

67. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 67 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote nine speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

68. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 68 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote ten speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

69. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 69 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote eleven speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

70. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 70 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote twelve speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

71. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 71 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote thirteen speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

72. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 72 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote fourteen speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

Defendant Cision Ltd.

73. Defendants admit that Cision Ltd. is a corporation formed under the laws of the Cayman Islands with its United States headquarters in Chicago, Illinois. Except as expressly

admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 73 of the First Amended Complaint.

74. Defendants admit the allegations in Paragraph 74 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote fifteen speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

75. Defendants admit that Cision Ltd. ceased trading on the New York Stock Exchange on approximately January 31, 2020. The documents cited in footnote sixteen speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 75 of the First Amended Complaint.

76. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 76 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote seventeen speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

77. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 77 of the First Amended Complaint.

78. Paragraph 78 contains quotations from publicly-available documents. Those documents speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 78 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnotes eighteen and nineteen speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

79. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 79 of the First Amended Complaint.

80. Paragraph 80 contains quotations from a document attached as an exhibit to the First Amended Complaint. That document speaks for itself, and as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 80 of the First Amended Complaint.

81. Paragraph 81 contains quotations from publicly-available documents. Those documents speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 81 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote twenty speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

82. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 82 of the First Amended Complaint.

83. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 83 of the First Amended Complaint.

84. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 84 of the First Amended Complaint.

85. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 85 of the First Amended Complaint.

The documents cited in footnote twenty-one speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

86. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 86 of the First Amended Complaint.

87. Paragraph 87 contains quotations from publicly-available documents. Those documents speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 87 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnotes twenty-two and twenty-three speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

88. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 88 of the First Amended Complaint.

The document cited in footnote twenty-four speaks for itself, and as such, no response is required.

89. Paragraph 89 contains quotations from a document attached to the First Amended Complaint as an exhibit. That document speaks for itself, and thus, no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 89 of the First Amended Complaint.

90. Paragraph 90 contains quotations from a document attached to the First Amended Complaint as an exhibit. That document speaks for itself, and thus, no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 90 of the First Amended Complaint.

91. Paragraph 91 contains quotations from a document attached to the First Amended Complaint as an exhibit. That document speaks for itself, and thus, no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 91 of the First Amended Complaint.

92. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 92 of the First Amended Complaint. The document cited in footnote twenty-five speaks for itself, and as such, no response is required.

93. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 93 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote twenty-six speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

94. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 94 of the First Amended Complaint. The document cited in footnote twenty-seven speaks for itself, and as such, no response is required.

95. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 95 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote twenty-eight speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

96. Defendants lack sufficient knowledge or information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 96 of the First Amended Complaint, and therefore deny them. The documents cited in footnote twenty-nine speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

97. Paragraph 97 contains quotations from a publicly-available document. That document speaks for itself. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 97 of the First Amended Complaint.

98. Paragraph 98 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 98 of the First Amended Complaint.

99. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 99 of the First Amended Complaint.

Defendant Cision US Inc.

100. Defendants admit that Cision US Inc. is a corporation formed under the laws of Delaware with its headquarters in Chicago, Illinois and additional offices in New York, New York and Beltsville, Maryland. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 100 of the First Amended Complaint.

101. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 101 of the First Amended Complaint. The documents cited in footnote thirty speak for themselves, and as such, no response is required.

102. Defendants admit that Cision US Inc. employs Sales Representatives in multiple jurisdictions within the United States, except that it denies the allegation as to the portion of the Plaintiffs' defined term for Sales Representatives which includes "other similar roles, however variously titled" as vague. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 102 of the First Amended Complaint.

103. Paragraph 103 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 103 of the First Amended Complaint.

104. Defendants admit that Cision US Inc. maintained control and oversight over Plaintiffs Tallungan and Esquibel. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny whether it maintained control and oversight over “similarly situated employees,” as the term is vague, and therefore denies same. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 104 of the First Amended Complaint.

105. Defendants admit the allegations in Paragraph 105 of the First Amended Complaint with respect to Sales Representatives employed by Cision US Inc., except that it denies the allegation as to the portion of the Plaintiffs’ defined term for Sales Representatives which includes “other similar roles, however variously titled” as vague. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 105 of the First Amended Complaint.

106. Defendants admit the allegations in Paragraph 106 of the First Amended Complaint with respect to Sales Representatives employed by Cision US Inc, except that it denies the allegation as to the portion of the Plaintiffs’ defined term for Sales Representatives which includes “other similar roles, however variously titled” as vague. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 106 of the First Amended Complaint.

107. Defendants admit that Cision US Inc. issued paychecks for Plaintiffs Tallungan and Esquibel. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 107 of the First Amended Complaint.

108. Defendants admit that Cision US Inc. promulgates a “Cision US Employee Handbook” that it distributes to all of its employees. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 108 of the First Amended Complaint.

109. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 109 of the First Amended Complaint.

110. Defendants admit that Cision US Inc. promulgates “Rules of Engagement” to certain of its sales employees. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 110 of the First Amended Complaint.

111. Defendants admit the allegations in Paragraph 111 of the First Amended Complaint.

COMMON FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

112. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 112 of the First Amended Complaint.

113. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 113 of the First Amended Complaint.

114. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 114 of the First Amended Complaint.

115. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 115 of the First Amended Complaint.

116. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 116 of the First Amended Complaint.

117. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 117 of the First Amended Complaint.

118. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 118 of the First Amended Complaint.

119. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 119 of the First Amended Complaint.

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

120. The First Amended Complaint speaks for itself as to the claims Plaintiffs assert, and as such, an answer is not required as to the allegation in Paragraph 120 of the First Amended Complaint. Defendants, however, deny the allegations and implications that they violated any of the legal bases asserted in the manner alleged. Defendants deny that collective treatment is appropriate. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegation as to “similarly situated employees,” as the term is vague, and therefore denies same. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 120 of the First Amended Complaint.

121. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 121 of the First Amended Complaint.

122. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 122 of the First Amended Complaint, including the allegations in sub-parts a. and b.

123. Defendants admit that they were aware of the FLSA's requirements, but deny the allegations and implications that they violated the FLSA in any way. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 123 of the First Amended Complaint.

124. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 124 of the First Amended Complaint.

125. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 125 of the First Amended Complaint.

NEW YORK CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

126. The First Amended Complaint speaks for itself as to the claims the New York Plaintiff asserts, and as such, an answer is not required as to the allegations in Paragraph 126 of the First Amended Complaint. Defendants, however, deny the allegations and implications that they violated any of the legal bases asserted in the manner alleged. Defendants deny that class treatment is appropriate. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations as to "similarly situated persons," as the term is vague, and therefore denies same. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 126 of the First Amended Complaint.

127. Defendants admit that Plaintiffs define the New York Class as stated. Defendants deny that class treatment is appropriate, and deny that the Plaintiff's definition of Cision or Sales Representatives as stated in the First Amended Complaint is accurate or appropriate. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 127 of the First Amended Complaint.

128. Defendants admit that Plaintiffs define the New York Class as stated. Defendants deny that class treatment is appropriate, and deny that the Plaintiffs' definition of Cision as stated in the First Amended Complaint is accurate or appropriate. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 128 of the First Amended Complaint.

129. Paragraph 129 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 129 of the First Amended Complaint.

130. Defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 130 of the First Amended Complaint and therefore deny the same.

131. Paragraph 131 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 131 of the First Amended Complaint.

132. Paragraph 132 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 132 of the First Amended Complaint, including the allegations in sub-parts a. through i.

133. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 133 of the First Amended Complaint.

134. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 134 of the First Amended Complaint.

135. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 135 of the First Amended Complaint.

136. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 136 of the First Amended Complaint.

137. Defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 137 of the First Amended Complaint and therefore deny the same.

138. Defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 138 of the First Amended Complaint and therefore deny the same.

139. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 139 of the First Amended Complaint.

140. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 140 of the First Amended Complaint.

ILLINOIS CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

141. The First Amended Complaint speaks for itself as to the claims the Illinois Plaintiff asserts, and as such, an answer is not required to the allegations in Paragraph 141 of the First Amended Complaint. Defendants deny the allegations and implications that they violated any of the legal bases asserted in the manner alleged. Defendants deny that class treatment is appropriate. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations as to “similarly situated persons,” as the term is vague, and therefore denies same. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 141 of the First Amended Complaint.

142. Defendants admit that Plaintiffs define the Illinois Class as stated. Defendants deny that class treatment is appropriate, and deny that the Plaintiff's definition of Cision or Sales Representatives as stated in the First Amended Complaint is accurate or appropriate. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 142 of the First Amended Complaint.

143. Defendants admit that Plaintiffs define the Illinois Class as stated. Defendants deny that class treatment is appropriate, and deny that the Plaintiffs' definition of Cision as stated in the First Amended Complaint is accurate or appropriate. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 143 of the First Amended Complaint.

144. Paragraph 144 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 144 of the First Amended Complaint.

145. Defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 145 of the First Amended Complaint and therefore deny the same.

146. Paragraph 146 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 146 of the First Amended Complaint.

147. Paragraph 147 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 147 of the First Amended Complaint, including the allegations in sub-parts a. through e.

148. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 148 of the First Amended Complaint.

149. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 149 of the First Amended Complaint.

150. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 150 of the First Amended Complaint.

151. Defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 151 of the First Amended Complaint and therefore deny the same.

152. Defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 152 of the First Amended Complaint and therefore deny the same.

153. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 153 of the First Amended Complaint.

154. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 154 of the First Amended Complaint.

MARYLAND CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

155. The First Amended Complaint speaks for itself as to the claims the Maryland Plaintiff asserts, and as such, an answer is not required to the allegations in Paragraph 155 of the First Amended Complaint. Defendants deny the allegations and implications that they violated any of the legal bases asserted in the manner alleged. Defendants deny that class treatment is appropriate. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations as to “similarly situated persons,” as the term is vague, and therefore denies same. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 155 of the First Amended Complaint.

156. Defendants admit that Plaintiffs define the Maryland Class as stated. Defendants deny that class treatment is appropriate, and deny that the Plaintiff's definition of Cision or Sales Representatives as stated in the First Amended Complaint is accurate or appropriate. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 156 of the First Amended Complaint.

157. Defendants admit that Plaintiffs define the Maryland Class as stated. Defendants deny that class treatment is appropriate and deny that the Plaintiffs' definition of Cision as stated in the First Amended Complaint is accurate or appropriate. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 157 of the First Amended Complaint.

158. Paragraph 158 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 158 of the First Amended Complaint.

159. Defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 159 of the First Amended Complaint and therefore deny the same.

160. Paragraph 160 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 160 of the First Amended Complaint.

161. Paragraph 161 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 161 of the First Amended Complaint, including the allegations in sub-parts a. through i.

162. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 162 of the First Amended Complaint.

163. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 163 of the First Amended Complaint.

164. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 164 of the First Amended Complaint.

165. Defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 165 of the First Amended Complaint and therefore deny the same.

166. Defendants are without knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 166 of the First Amended Complaint and therefore deny the same.

167. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 167 of the First Amended Complaint.

168. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 168 of the First Amended Complaint.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
Fair Labor Standards Act – Overtime Wages
(Brought on behalf of Plaintiffs and the FLSA Collective)

169. Defendants incorporate by reference their responses to the allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

170. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 170 of the First Amended Complaint.

171. Defendants admit that Plaintiffs filed documents that purport to be written consent forms signed by Plaintiffs Mikityuk, Tallungan, and Esquibel in this action. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 171 of the First Amended Complaint.

172. Paragraph 172 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 172 of the First Amended Complaint.

173. Paragraph 173 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 173 of the First Amended Complaint.

174. Paragraph 174 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 174 of the First Amended Complaint.

175. Paragraph 175 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 175 of the First Amended Complaint.

176. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 176 of the First Amended Complaint.

177. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 177 of the First Amended Complaint.

178. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 178 of the First Amended Complaint.

179. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 179 of the First Amended Complaint.

180. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 180 of the First Amended Complaint.

181. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 181 of the First Amended Complaint.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

New York Wage Laws – Unpaid Overtime

NYLL §§ 190, *et seq.*; 650, *et seq.*; 12 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 142-2.2

(Brought by the New York Plaintiff Individually and on Behalf of the New York Class)

182. Defendants incorporate by reference their responses to the allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

183. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 183 of the First Amended Complaint.

184. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 184 of the First Amended Complaint.

185. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 185 of the First Amended Complaint.

186. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 186 of the First Amended Complaint.

187. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 187 of the First Amended Complaint.

188. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 188 of the First Amended Complaint.

189. The First Amended Complaint speaks for itself as to the recovery sought, and as such, an answer is not required as to the allegation regarding what the lawsuit seeks. Defendants, however, deny the allegations and implications that they violated any of the legal bases asserted in the manner alleged.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

NYLL, Article 6, §§ 190 *et seq.* – Failure to Provide Accurate Wage Statements

(Brought by the New York Plaintiff Individually and on Behalf of the New York Class)

190. Defendants incorporate by reference their responses to the allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

191. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 191 of the First Amended Complaint.

192. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 192 of the First Amended Complaint.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

**NYLL, Article 6, §§ 190 *et seq.* – Failure to Provide Complaint Wage Notice
(Brought by the New York Plaintiff Individually and on Behalf of the New York Class)**

193. Defendants incorporate by reference their responses to the allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

194. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 194 of the First Amended Complaint.

195. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 195 of the First Amended Complaint.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

**Illinois Wage Laws – Unpaid Overtime Wages
(Brought by the Illinois Plaintiff Individually and on Behalf of the Illinois Class)**

196. Defendants incorporate by reference their responses to the allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

197. Paragraph 197 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 197 of the First Amended Complaint.

198. Paragraph 198 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 198 of the First Amended Complaint.

199. Defendants deny that Cision Ltd. employed the Illinois Plaintiff and the members of the Illinois Class. Defendants admit that Cision US Inc. employed the Illinois Plaintiff. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegation that Cision US Inc. employed the members of the Illinois Class, and therefore denies same. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 199 of the First Amended Complaint.

200. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 200 of the First Amended Complaint.

201. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 201 of the First Amended Complaint.
202. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 202 of the First Amended Complaint.
203. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 203 of the First Amended Complaint.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Maryland Wage & Hour Law – Unpaid Overtime Wages

(Brought by the Maryland Plaintiff Individually and on Behalf of the Maryland Class)

204. Defendants incorporate by reference their responses to the allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

205. Paragraph 205 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 205 of the First Amended Complaint.

206. Paragraph 206 of the First Amended Complaint does not require a response as it states legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 206 of the First Amended Complaint.

207. Defendants deny that Cision Ltd. employed the Maryland Plaintiff and the members of the Maryland Class. Defendants admit that Cision US Inc. employed the Maryland Plaintiff. Defendants lack knowledge or information sufficient to admit or deny the allegation that Cision US Inc. employed the members of the Maryland Class, and therefore denies same. Except as expressly admitted, Defendants deny the remaining allegations in Paragraph 207 of the First Amended Complaint.

208. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 208 of the First Amended Complaint.
209. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 209 of the First Amended Complaint.
210. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 210 of the First Amended Complaint.
211. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 211 of the First Amended Complaint.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

**Maryland Wage Payment & Collection Law – Timely Payment of Wages
(Brought by the Maryland Plaintiff Individually and on Behalf of the Maryland Class)**

212. Defendants incorporate by reference their responses to the allegations in all preceding paragraphs.

213. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 213 of the First Amended Complaint.

214. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 214 of the First Amended Complaint.

215. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 215 of the First Amended Complaint.

216. Defendants deny the allegations in Paragraph 216 of the First Amended Complaint.

Defendants deny each and every allegation of the First Amended Complaint not specifically admitted.

PRAAYER FOR RELIEF

ANSWER: Defendants deny that any act by Cision Ltd. or Cision US Inc., or any officer, agent, or employee of Cision Ltd. or Cision US Inc., violated any rights of the Plaintiffs or potential collective or class members, and further deny that same are entitled to any of the relief requested in sub-parts A. through J of Plaintiffs' Prayer for Relief or otherwise. Defendants request that the Court dismiss all claims asserted against them with prejudice and award reasonable fees, costs, and expenses to Defendants as may be legally applicable and appropriate.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

ANSWER: Defendants do not consent to Plaintiffs' demand for a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

Defendants assert the following affirmative defenses:

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint, and each and every purported Claim for Relief in the First Amended Complaint, fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims, as brought on behalf of themselves or other allegedly similarly situated individuals, are barred, in whole or in part, by the applicable statute of limitations, including, but not limited to, 29 U.S.C. § 255(a) with respect to the First Cause of Action; NYLL § 198 with respect to the Second, Third, and Fourth Causes of Action; 820 ILCS 105/12(a) with respect to the Fifth Cause of Action; and Md. Code Ann., Cts. & Jud. Proc. § 5-101 with respect to the Sixth and Seventh Causes of Action.

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims, as brought on behalf of themselves or other allegedly similarly situated individuals, are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine of avoidable consequences or failure to mitigate damages.

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Any violation of the obligation to pay overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act or applicable state laws (and Defendants deny that there was any such violation) was an act or omission in good faith, and that Defendants had reasonable grounds for believing that any act or omission was not a violation of any legal requirement, such that liquidated damages may not be awarded.

FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves or other allegedly similarly situated individuals, failed to properly exhaust administrative requisites for suit, to the extent that they seek recovery of civil

penalties with respect to itemized wage payment statements or on any other basis, and as a result any claim for civil penalties is barred in whole or in part.

SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

To the extent applicable, Plaintiffs' claims, as brought on behalf of themselves or other allegedly similarly situated individuals, are barred by the doctrines of waiver, unclean hands and/or laches.

SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs lack standing to bring and pursue all or portions of their claims as alleged in the First Amended Complaint.

EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims, as brought on behalf of themselves or other allegedly similarly situated individuals, are barred, in whole or in part, because any time for which Defendants did not pay wages was *de minimis*, including, but not limited to, for time spent on preliminary or postliminary activities, and thus Defendants cannot have been required to pay for that time and cannot have violated any legal requirement in that respect.

NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims, as brought on behalf of themselves or other allegedly similarly situated individuals, are barred, in whole or in part, because even if Defendants violated any provision of the FLSA, which Defendants specifically deny, such violation was not pursuant to a uniform policy or plan.

TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs are not entitled to certification of any collective action pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) on their claims under the FLSA because they are not similarly situated to the putative

collective action members whom they purport and seek to represent, and cannot identify a group of similarly situated employees or former employees of Defendants.

ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Collective relief is inappropriate because individual issues predominate over issues generally applicable to the collective action. By way of example, consideration of the employment status of the Plaintiffs and each putative collective action member requires an individual fact-specific inquiry into the actual day-to-day duties of each individual and the nature of their relationship with Defendants.

TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves or other allegedly similarly situated individuals, are not entitled to an award of prejudgment interest even if they prevail on any or all of their claims.

THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs, former employees, lack standing to represent the putative class of current employees, as they cannot seek injunctive relief. For this reason, Plaintiffs are inadequate class representatives.

FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims, as brought on behalf of themselves or other allegedly similarly situated individuals, are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine of estoppel to the extent that anyone misrepresented the amount of time worked, or failed to inform Defendants of the full amount of time worked, despite having been required to record time worked fully.

FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims against Defendants are barred because Defendants were not an employer or joint employer of the Plaintiffs or putative collective action members or putative class members.

SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims, as brought on behalf of themselves or other allegedly similarly situated individuals, are barred, in whole or in part, because they were compensated at all times in accordance with applicable FLSA and state law requirements.

SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims, as brought on behalf of themselves or other allegedly similarly situated individuals, are barred, in whole or in part, on the basis that Plaintiffs or such other individuals were exempt from the overtime provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act pursuant to the inside sales or commission pay exemption (29 U.S.C. § 207(i)), the administrative exemption, or the executive exemption, or pursuant to a combination of such exemptions.

EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims, as brought on behalf of themselves or other allegedly similarly situated individuals, are barred, in whole or in part, on the basis that Plaintiffs or such other individuals were exempt from the overtime provisions of the New York Labor Law pursuant to the administrative exemption, the executive exemption, or pursuant to a combination of such exemptions.

NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims, as brought on behalf of themselves or other allegedly similarly situated individuals, are barred, in whole or in part, on the basis that Plaintiffs or such other individuals were exempt from the overtime provisions of the Illinois Wage Laws pursuant to the inside sales or commission pay exemption (820 ILCS 105/4a(2)(F)), the administrative exemption, or the executive exemption, or pursuant to a combination of such exemptions.

TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims, as brought on behalf of themselves or other allegedly similarly situated individuals, are barred, in whole or in part, on the basis that Plaintiffs or such other individuals were exempt from the overtime provisions of the Maryland Wage and Hour Law pursuant to the inside sales or commission pay exemption (Md. Code Ann., Lab. & Empl. § 3-403(5)), the administrative exemption, or the executive exemption, or pursuant to a combination of such exemptions.

TWENTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

To the extent that any overtime wages are found due and owing (and Defendants deny that any such amounts are due), the regular rate for determining the amount of any such overtime must be based only on amounts properly included in the regular rate, with any items within the exceptions in 29 U.S.C. § 207(e) and its implementing regulations accordingly excluded from the regular rate.

TWENTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Any wages found to be due (and Defendants deny any additional wages are due) are the subject of a bona fide, good faith dispute, and with Defendants having reasonable grounds for believing in good faith that no additional wages are due, penalties or any type of liquidated damages cannot be awarded.

Defendants assert the affirmative defenses set forth in this Answer against each and every member of any certified collective action, class, or subclass, in the event that the Court certifies any collective action, class, or subclass.

Dated: April 7, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

By: /s/ Linda M. Jackson

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